

13

Gilāna Sutta 3

Tatiya Gilāna Sutta The Third Discourse on the Ill | **S 46.15**
 or, **(Bhagavā) Gilāna Sutta** The Blessed One's Discourse on the Ill
 Theme: The Buddha's illness is overcome through reflecting on the awakening-factors
 Translated & annotated by Piya Tan ©2013

Introduction

1 The Gilāna Sutta 3 (S 46.16), deals with the time when the Buddha himself is ill, and he asks Mahā Cunda to speak to him on the 7 awakening-factors [§5]. This is the third of a set of three Suttas of the same name, all dealing with the same subject—the illness of arhats—but with a different individual in each case, thus:

		<u>The ill</u>	<u>Attended by</u>	
Gilāna Sutta 1	S 46.14	Mahā Kassapa	the Buddha	SD 43.11
Gilāna Sutta 2	S 46.15	Moggallāna	the Buddha	SD 43.12
Gilāna Sutta 3	S 46.16	The Buddha	Mahā Cunda	SD 43.13

All three Suttas locate the occasion in the same venue: the squirrels' feeding-ground in the Bamboo Grove.

2 All the three Suttas have the same structure. The indisposed saint is identified; someone visits him and asks after him. The ill speaks of his physical discomfort and the visitor recites the 7 awakening-factors to him. The ill then recovers.

3 For other details, see the Introduction to **Gilāna Sutta 1** (S 16.14). SD 43.11.

— — —

The Third Discourse on the Ill

S 46.16

1 [81] At one time, the Blessed One was staying in the squirrels' feeding-ground in the Bamboo Grove near Raja,gaha.

The Buddha lays ill

2 Now at that time, the Blessed One was was sick, in pain, gravely ill.

3 Then the venerable Mahā Cunda went up to the Blessed One, saluted him, and sat down at one side.

4 Thus seated at one side, the Blessed One said this to the venerable Mahā Cunda, "Recite the seven awakening-factors, Cunda."¹

The 7 awakening-factors

5 "These seven awakening-factors, bhante, have been well pointed out by the Blessed One. When cultivated, much developed, they bring about direct knowledge, self-awakening, nirvana.

What are the seven?

¹ *Paṭibhantu taṃ cunda bojjhaṅgā'ti.*

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| (1) The awakening-factor that is
has been well pointed out
When cultivated, much developed,
it brings about direct knowledge,
self-awakening, nirvana. | <u>mindfulness</u>
by the Blessed One. | <i>sati sambojjhaṅga</i> |
| (2) The awakening-factor that is
<i>has been well pointed out</i>
When cultivated, much developed,
<i>it brings about direct knowledge,</i>
<i>self-awakening, nirvana.</i> | <u>dharma-investigation</u>
by the Blessed One. | <i>dhamma, vicaya sambojjhaṅga</i> |
| (3) The awakening-factor that is
<i>has been well pointed out</i>
When cultivated, much developed,
<i>it brings about direct knowledge,</i>
<i>self-awakening, nirvana.</i> | <u>effort</u>
by the Blessed One. | <i>virīya sambojjhaṅga</i> |
| (4) The awakening-factor that is
<i>has been well pointed out</i>
When cultivated, much developed,
<i>it bring about direct knowledge,</i>
<i>self-awakening, nirvana.</i> | <u>zest</u>
by the Blessed One. | <i>pīti sambojjhaṅga</i> |
| (5) The awakening-factor that is
<i>has been well pointed out</i>
When cultivated, much developed,
<i>it brings about direct knowledge,</i>
<i>self-awakening, nirvana.</i> | <u>tranquillity</u>
by the Blessed One. | <i>passaddhi sambojjhaṅga</i> |
| (6) The awakening-factor that is
<i>has been well pointed out</i>
When cultivated, much developed,
<i>it brings about direct knowledge,</i>
<i>self-awakening, nirvana.</i> | <u>mental concentration</u>
by the Blessed One. | <i>samādhi sambojjhaṅga</i> |
| (7) The awakening-factor that is
<i>has been well pointed out</i>
When cultivated, much developed,
<i>it brings about direct knowledge,</i>
<i>self-awakening, nirvana.</i> | <u>equanimity</u>
by the Blessed One. | <i>upekkhā sambojjhaṅga</i> |

These, bhante, are the seven awakening-factors have been well pointed out by the Blessed One. When cultivated, much developed, they bring about direct knowledge, self-awakening, nirvana.”

5.2 “Indeed, Cunda, they are awakening-factors! Indeed, Cunda, they are awakening-factors!”

The Buddha’s recovers

6 The venerable Mahā Cunda said this.
The teacher approved.²

And the Blessed One recovered from his illness. In this way was the Blessed One’s illness abandoned.

— evaṃ —

130923; 131001; 131218a

² *Samanuñño satthā ahoṣi.*